

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Indochina	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Travel and Security Conditions in the Saigon-Djiring-Dalat Areas	DATE DISTR.	2 March 1953
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1. There is absolutely no Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) infiltration or influence in the Djiring (N 11-34, E 108-04) area, and the road between Dalat (N 11-56, E 108-26) and Blao, southwest of Djiring on Route Coloniale 20, is perfectly safe 24 hours a day. There have been no DRV attacks on the Saigon-Dalat convoy during the past three years. The route from Djiring to Ban Me-Thout (N 12-40, E 108-02) is also perfectly safe and may be negotiated by jeep or Citroen car in eight hours. The Djiring-Phan Thiet (N 10-55, E 108-04) road, however, is closed; the area beyond the 27 kilometer marker, from Djiring, is considered to be DRV-controlled although some people have traveled safely beyond that point.

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2. All vehicle travel along Route Coloniale 20 between Saigon and Dalat, a distance of 308 kilometers, is made in an armed convoy. Further protection is afforded by occasional foot patrols and guard towers along the route. In general the road is in fairly good repair - better, for example, than the Saigon-Phnom Penh road. Three portions of the road which were wiped out by landslides caused by the October 1952 typhoon, have been replaced by wooden bridges and new road sections which turn in sharply toward the mountain side. The hairpin turns at these bridges are so sharp that trucks have to back up to negotiate the turns. 1

- 25X1A 1. Comment. These sharp turns are potential danger spots should the DRV again begin harassing the convoys.

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